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Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PRS-01 INR-05

CIAE-00 /032 W
---------- 095852
R 030300Z JAN 76
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4974
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 013

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR CH US
SUBJECT: EISENHOWERS CONCLUDE VISIT TO PEKING

1. MR. AND MR. DAVID EISENHOWER LEFT PEKING FOR CANTON AND KUEILIN MORNING OF JANUARY 2, ACCOMPANIED BY PRCLO CHIEF HUANG CHEN. EISENHOWERS WILL BE LEAVING CHINA FOR U.S. JANUARY 9.

2. REFLECTING PEKING'S SPECIAL REGARD FOR FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON, EISENHOWERS WERE GIVEN TREATMENT RARELY ACCORDED NON-OFFICIAL VISITORS, INCLUDING CARE AND FEEDING BY MFA'S PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT, MEETINGS WITH FONMIN CHIAO KUAN-HUA AND VICE PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING, AND THE HIGH COURTESY OF A NEW YEAR'S EVE MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN MAO, WHO ASKED THEM TO TRANSMIT TO MR. NIXON HIS INVITATION (VERBAL) FOR A RETURN VISIT TO CHINA.

3. USLO OFFICER AT AIRPORT TALKED BRIEFLY WITH DAVID EISENHOWER ABOUT MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN, BUT ELICITED NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE BEYOND CONFIRMATION THAT MAO WAS SINCERELY HOPEFUL OF SEEING MR. NIXON VISIT PRC AGAIN. EISENHOWER SAID THAT HE AND HIS WIFER WERE ABOUT TO RETIRE EVENING OF DEC 31 WHEN THEY WERE ADVISED
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TO HOLD THEMSELVES READY FOR LATE-NIGHT MEETING.

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SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT THE SUMMONS CAME. MEETING LASTED ABOUT 45 MINUTES, DURING WHICH EISENHOWERS PRESENTED LETTER FROM MR. NIXON TO CHAIRMAN WHICH, SURPRISINGLY, HE BEGAN TO READ ALOUD IN INTELLIGIBLE ENGLISH. CHAIRMAN READ THE DATE, THE ADDRESS AND A FEW WORDS BEFORE GIVING LETTER TO INTERPRETER. EISENHOWER COMMENDED THAT ONE SIDE OF MAO'S MOUTH APPEARED PARALYZED AND THAT HE HAD DIFFICULTY FORMING WORDS. HE DIDN'T KNOW HOW THE INTERPRETERS MANAGED TO FATHOM WHAT THE CHAIRMAN WAS SAYING.

4. AT AIRPORT TO SEE EISENHOWERS OFF WERE MFA PROTOCOL CHIEF CHU CHUAN-HSIEN, AMERICAN AND OCEANIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT DEPUTY CHIEF TANG WEN-SHENG (NANCY) AND U.S. AFFAIRS OFFICE CHIEF TING YUAN-HUNG. THE EISENHOWERS HOST, PRCLO CHIEF HUANG CHEN, ACCOMPANIED THEM TO CANTON, WHENCE THEY WILL PROCEED TO KUEILIN AND POSSIBLY ONE OR TWO OTHER CITIES BEFORE LEAVING FOR U.S. JAN 9.

5. SEVERAL MINUTES OF THE BRIEF PRE-DEPARTURE CONVERSATION WERE CONSUMED BY NANCY TANG'S CONVOLUTED APOLOGY TO DAVID EISENHOWER FOR PEOPLE'S DAILY JAN 1 HEADLINE ON REPORT OF MEETING WITH MAO. SHE TOLD DAVID THAT THE TRANSLATION HE HAD BEEN SEEKING FOR THE HEADLINE READS "CHAIRMAN MAO SEES THE DAUGHTER OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON, MR. AND MRS. JULIE (CHU LI FU FU)". SHE THEN WENT INTO A LONG MONOLOGUE ON MARRIED WOMEN'S NAMES IN MODERN DAY CHINA, POINTING OUT THAT WOMEN IN CHINA NO LONGER TAKE THEIR HUSBAND'S SURNAMES, THAT SINCE THE ANTI-CONFUCIUS MOVEMENT A LOT OF MEN HAD MARRIED INTO THEIR WIVES' FAMILIES AND TAKEN THEIR WIVES'S SURNAMES, AND THAT THE MAN WHO COMPOSED THE HEADLINE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE AMERICAN USAGE OF ALWAYS GOING BY THE HUSBAND'S NAME (SIC). DAVID'S ONLY COMMENT WAS, "SO THAT'S WHY NO ONE WOULD TRANSLATE IT FOR ME*".
THAYER

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